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Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Summary record of the 10th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 26 June 2002, at 10.30 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Huntley ..... (Saint Lucia)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.55 a.m.

Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories (A/AC.109/2002/3-4, 7-9, 12, 14-15 and 17; A/AC.109/2002/L.11)

Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration (A/AC.109/2002/4, 8 and 15; A/AC.109/2002/L.10)

1. **The Chairman** drew attention to various working papers prepared by the Secretariat and containing information on the two agenda items under consideration, and to draft resolution A/AC.109/2002/L.11 and draft decision A/AC.109/2002/L.10, which had been submitted under those items.

2. *Draft resolution A/AC.109/2002/L.11 and draft decision A/AC.109/2002/L.10 were adopted.*

3. **The Chairman** said that the Committee had completed its consideration of the two agenda items.

Report of the Special Committee (A/AC.109/2002/L.16)

4. **The Chairman** drew attention to the draft report of the Special Committee (A/AC.109/2002/L.16), which had been approved in informal consultations and said that, if there were no objections, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt it.

5. **Mr. Tanoh-Boutchoué** (Côte d'Ivoire) said that, in the final sentence of paragraph 11 of the draft, the words "seminar in the Pacific region" should be replaced by "seminar in the Caribbean region".

6. *The report of the Special Committee, as orally revised, was adopted.*

Questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands (A/AC.109/2002/L.15/Rev.1)

7. **The Chairman** drew attention to the draft consolidated resolution on the questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands (A/AC.109/2002/L.15/Rev.1) and to the outcome of the consultations he had held with the administering Powers. He proposed that paragraph 6 of section XI of the draft, on the subject of "United States Virgin Islands", should be replaced by the following wording:

> "6. Takes note of the position of the territorial Government opposing the assumption by the administering Power of submerged land in territorial water, having regard to relevant resolutions of the General Assembly on the ownership and control of natural resources, including marine resources, by the people of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and its calls for the return of those marine resources to the people of the Territory;"

He added that, taking into account the remark by the representative of Côte d'Ivoire, it was proposed that the third preambular paragraph of section IX ("St. Helena") should be deleted.

8. *Draft resolution A/AC.109/2002/L.15/Rev.1, as orally amended, was adopted.*

9. **Mr. Zaemsky** (Russian Federation) said that he wished to make a statement regarding the decisions taken by the Committee. His Government reiterated its traditional position, which was that it had a particular viewpoint concerning a number of the Committee's agenda items, especially those concerning the specialized agencies and military activities. His delegation had not hindered the consensus adoption of those decisions but, when the issues concerned were discussed in the Fourth Committee and the General Assembly, it might vote differently.

Question of sending visiting missions to Territories (A/AC.109/2002/27)

10. **The Chairman** drew attention to document A/AC.109/2002/27, in which New Zealand invited the Committee to visit Tokelau in August 2002 to study the political, economic and social situation in the Territory. It was expected that the mission would submit to the Committee a report containing its conclusions. He proposed that the invitation should be accepted.

11. *It was so decided.*

Composition of the mission of the Special Committee

12. **The Chairman** informed the Committee that he had already held consultations with the members of two regional groups concerning the question of sending a visiting mission to Tokelau. Consultations with the remaining regional groups were continuing; once they were completed, he would distribute to all the members of the Committee a note on the subject of the composition of the mission.

Other matters

13. **The Chairman** recalled that, during its informal consultations on Monday, 24 June 2002, the Committee had considered and approved the text of a draft section on "Future work", contained in conference room paper A/AC.109/2002/CRP.2, which had been distributed to members. He proposed that the text should be officially adopted, account being taken of the oral amendments made to it during informal consultations, and that the Rapporteur should be authorized to include it in the corresponding section of part I of the Committee's report to be submitted to the General Assembly.

14. *It was so decided.*

Draft report to the General Assembly

15. **The Chairman** proposed that, pursuant to a decision taken by the Committee at its organizational meeting on 12 February 2002, the Rapporteur should be authorized to bring the Committee's draft resolutions and decisions into line with General Assembly format and submit them directly to the Assembly.

16. *It was so decided.*

Organization of work

17. **The Chairman** recalled the invitation received from the Government of New Zealand and the Committee's decision to send a visiting mission to Tokelau. In that connection, it would be necessary for the Committee to hold one more formal meeting at a later stage, to consider and approve the report of that mission and its submission to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to hold such a meeting.

18. *It was so decided.*

19. **The Chairman** expressed his gratitude to the members of the Committee for their support, to the Vice-Chairmen for their constant willingness to assist him in carrying out his responsibilities, to the Rapporteur for his efforts to ensure the timely preparation of reports, and to the staff of the United Nations Secretariat for their efforts to ensure the successful completion of the Committee's regular session for 2002.

The meeting rose at 11.20 a.m.